Jury sees photos of Simpson in Magli shoes

30 prints allegedly show him in footwear similar to that at murder scene

Sun 11/17/97

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SANTA MONICA, Calif. — Six weeks after O. J. Simpson pronounced a picture of himself in Bruno Maglis a fake, the jury was shown 30 new photos of Simpson yesterday, wearing the same kind of shoes that tracked blood around the bodies of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald L. Goldman.

Lawyers for the plaintiffs' side in the wrongful-death trial were all smiles as they unveiled the photos, but an expert witness for the defense said they didn't change his opinion that the earlier picture taken the same day had been doctored.

Simpson showed no reaction to the new photos, but his lawyers were outraged, complaining they were "sandbagged" because they weren't shown the new pictures until the opposing attorneys came to court after a two-week recess.

Reports about the pictures surfaced during the holiday break, but plaintiffs' attorney Daniel Petrocelli said he didn't receive the blowups and contact sheets until Saturday.

Dan Leonard, an attorney for Simpson, asked Judge Hiroshi Fujisaki for time to examine the photos and challenge their authenticity. But the judge refused.

In November, Simpson denied under oath that he ever wore Bruno Magli shoes like those seen in the photos. The shoes, according to the FBI, are the same kind that left bloody size-12 prints near the bodies. Of the picture, Simpson said: "It's a fraud."

Yesterday, Petrocelli argued that when Simpson took the stand and claimed the initial photo was a fake, "You take the chance you will be caught red-handed."

On the witness stand, Robert Groden, a Dallas-based photo technician, took a quick glance at each of the pictures and said they didn't change his mind about the earlier picture, which he said was probably doctored to place the rare shoes on Simpson's feet.

He said he had not had time to analyze the new pictures but had studied the earlier one and concluded the chances were 90 percent or better that it was faked.

The shoe photos are a centerpiece of the plaintiffs' case against Simpson. They surfaced months after he was acquitted of killing his former wife and her friend.

Like the photo Groden called a fake, the new pictures were supposedly taken of Simpson on Sept. 26, 1993, at Rich Stadium in Orchard Park, N.Y., before a Buffalo Bills football game against the Miami Dolphins. The pictures were taken by free-lance photographer E. J. Flammer.

A poor-quality version of one of the pictures appeared in the November 1993 issue of the Bills' official publication, *Buffalo Bills Report*. It is impossible to make out what kind of shoes Simpson is wearing in the published photo.

In the higher-quality original prints, it appears Simpson is wearing the same clothing he has on in the single disputed picture taken by free-lancer Harry Scull.

However, in Flammer's photos Simpson is wearing a pocket handkerchief; in Scull's photo he is not.

In another development, former Detective Mark Fuhrman claims in his new book that prosecutors ignored or failed to follow up on potentially important evidence he found, including a bloody fingerprint at the crime scene, an empty knife box in Simpson's bathroom, dark clothes in the washing machine and a blood-stained light switch in the maid's room, *Vanity Fair* magazine reported in its February issue.

A synopsis of the book has Fuhrman delivering harsh words for prosecutors: Marcia Clark was "a victim of celebrity who allowed her personal life to interfere with her work," while Christopher Darden was "a brooding, self-absorbed young man who had no business prosecuting a major murder case."

Telephone messages seeking reaction were left for Darden and Clark through their publicists.

Fuhrman describes lead detectives Philip Vannatter and Tom Lange as cops who "destroyed the case through inattention, laziness and critical mistakes." The book, "Murder in Brentwood," is due out late this month.